

5 Days Beijing - Chengdu Tour

Tour Code: LCT-BC-5D-01

Duration: 5 Days

Attractions: Forbidden City, Tian'anmen Square, Mutianyu Great Wall, Giant Panda Keeper Program, Giant Buddha

Overview: Arrive in Beijing and spend two whole days to visit the most important sites from Forbidden City to Mutianyu Great Wall. Then, take a high-speed train heading southward to Chengdu. Participate in the Giant Panda Keeper Program in the first and learn how to take care of those pandas. You will make cookies for them and clean their feces. In the last day, visit the Giant Buddha in Leshan city and taste Chengdu cuisine in Jinli Street.

Highlights

1. Visit Forbidden City and be amazed by its grandness and splendor.
2. Take cable car up and down the Great Wall to have a great view of this man-made miracle.
3. Join in the Panda Keeper Program and help to take care of pandas for a day.
4. Visit Giant Buddha in a distance by taking a local cruise.
5. Enjoy the most authentic Chengdu cuisine and learn how to make them if you want.

Itinerary

Day 1: Tian'anmen, Forbidden City, Temple of Heaven, Hutongs

09:00 a.m: Meet your Beijing local tour guide at your hotel lobby and be ready for the day tour.

09:30-10:15 a.m: Visit the **Tian' anmen Square**. It' s a rectangular square with an area of 440,000 sq meters. To some point, the Tian' anmen Square echoes the layout of the Forbidden City. It also displays the major concept of China politics in ancient times- centralism. There were so many historic things took place here , of which the most famous one is the Tian' anmen Incident. Now, it' s just a symbol.

10:30 - 12:30 p.m: Visit the magnificent **Forbidden City**, the largest Imperial Palace in the world.

We' ll spend a couple of hours wandering around this amazing example of Imperial architecture

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and learning about the history of the palace. Surrounded by a long scarlet walls longing 3.5km, UNESCO-listed Forbidden City is the very central power in Ming and Qing Dynasty. This large palace witness the prosperity and the decline of feudalism. From here, you will have a direct experience how royals lived and how they rule.

12:30 - 13:30 p.m: Enjoy a local food in a nice restaurant Beijingers always visit, please pay on moment based on what you have.

14:00 - 15:30 p.m: Head for **Temple of Heaven**. Situated in the southeast of central city, the Temple of Heaven was originally constructed in the eighteenth year of Yong Le (1420) in Ming Dynasty for Ming and Qing emperors to conduct annual ceremonies of praying to Heaven for good harvest. It combines the architectural technology of Ming and Qing Dynasties together, which makes it a rare Chinese ancient architecture and the largest sacrifice complex in the world. Charmed by its size, colorful meaning and importance in China's history, the site was classified into the "Directory of World Heritage" by UNESCO in 1998.

16:00 - 17:00 p.m: Walk in the tranquil **Hutongs**. In those interlaced Hutongs, one can experience the life of the ancient Beijing people. With bathrooms and public toilets usually being found, shops and vendors selling all kinds of goods that satisfy the local people's daily needs, and people gossiping along the lanes to strengthen their relationship, one can walk through the history and savor the unique culture. Thus, we can say that where there is such a lane, there is a story.

17:00 p.m: Drop you off at hotel for rest.

Day 2: Mutianyu Great Wall, Summer Palace.

07:30 a.m: Greeted by your tour guide in your hotel lobby and commence your day tour.

09:00 - 11:30 p.m: Drive around 1.5 hours to the **Mutianyu section Great Wall** and you will take a rest and lunch at the Subway down the foot of the Mutianyu Wall. This is a one of the most famous and ideal sections of the Great Wall. You will have your choice of taking the cable car or chair lift up the breathtaking wall and spend a leisurely 1 to 2 hours hiking up and down the various sections exploring the Watch Towers and marveling at the construction and beauty of the renown and legendary Wall. You then have the option of an exhilarating toboggan ride back down or simply return the way you came with cable car.

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11:30 - 12:30 p.m: Enjoy a typical Beijing lunch nearby the Mutianyu Great Wall (pay on moment).

14:00 - 16:00 p.m: Visit the **Summer Palace**. As the largest imperial garden in China, the Summer Palace has been a summer resort for royal families. There are huge lakes, bridges, corridors, pavilions, and various kinds of flowers and lots of rooms fully radiating the natural beauty and the grandeur of imperial gardens. With arched bridges and glittering ripples, pretty promenades and flowers in blossom, decorated corridors and ancient doors, and "breezeways" (a kind of hallway that allows the passage of a breeze between structures), all these can bring tourists into an enchanting and ever-changing scenery.

16:30 p.m: Come back to hotel and your two day tour ends here.

Day 3: Beijing West - Chengdu East by G571 (09:22 - 19:08)

07:30 a.m: Your Beijing driver will be waiting for you at your hotel lobby and transfer you to Beijing West Train Station.

19:08 p.m: Chengdu local driver will pick you up at Chengdu East train station and drop you off at Chengdu hotel.

Day 4: Panda Keeper Program

Picking up from your hotel: 7:30 a.m

Your tour personal guide and driver will pick you up at 7:30 a.m from your hotel and drive to directly to the Dujiangyan Panda Base.

Note: Please let us know beforehand if you want to start earlier to later.

Registration for volunteering: 8:30 - 9:00 a.m

When you arrived at the Panda Base, your tour guide will help you to register and sign a safety agreement with the Giant Panda Volunteer Service Center. After signing up and registration, your volunteer experience would commence.

First of all, you will get a uniform, a pair of gloves and other equipment. Then, the base staff will instruct some tips during the work, which your tour guide will assist you in comprehending them.

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You will be properly trained.

Cleaning pandas' home: 9:00 - 10:00 a.m

The first activity would be cleaning the panda's enclosure. You need to help the staff to clean pandas' feces and replace their bamboos. All the leftover bamboos need to be cleared. You can observe how pandas live.

Wandering around the panda base: 10:00 a.m - 11:00 a.m

After an hour's work, you will have a break, when you can wander around and see these cute pandas to eat bamboos. Your tour guide will guide you through all the base and help identify all kinds of pandas. Some of them are celebrities bonding relationships between China and other countries.

Feed pandas: 11:00 a.m - 11:30 a.m

You may know that pandas eat a lot. Besides bamboo, they can have cakes, apples, even carrots. You will feed them with specially made panda cakes closely.

Lunch time: 12:00 p.m - 13:00 p.m

The panda base will provide lunch for you. There are usually rice, meat dishes, vegetable dishes, porridge, and other Chinese food. In case you are not in mood for typical Chinese food, please bring your own lunch.

After lunch, you may rest a little and get ready for afternoon activities.

Panda documentary: 13:00 - 14:00 p.m

You will watch some documentaries regarding how pandas evolved and being protected by humans.

Clean the enclosure and feed panda again: 14:00 - 14:50

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By now, the earlier replaced bamboos must have been dry already, you need to put some fresh bamboos in and take the dried ones out. You can also feed them with some fruits and vegetables.

Make panda cakes: 14:50 - 15:30

When you feed the pandas with panda cakes, you must be curious about how it was made. Well, you have a chance to actually make panda cake with your own hands. You can make them into various shape.

Receive a certificate for your work and get back to hotel: 15:30 - 16:30 p.m

Your volunteering experience would end here and the panda base would issue you a certificate indicating your love and work for pandas. You will be transferred back to your hotel.

Day 5: Giant Buddha, Huanglongxi Ancient Town

07:30 a.m: Get up early and be prepared to visit the Giant Buddha.

09:30 - 11:00 a.m: Visit the **Giant Buddha** in Leshan city. It's located at the river outlet of Min River, Qingyi River and Dadu River, over 160km north away from Chengdu city. Built on the cliff based on Xixia Peak of Lingyun Mountain, Giant Buddha was the largest stone-carved Buddha with height of 71 meters. There are two ways to admire this giant Buddha. The ordinary way is to go inside the site and come down the foot of the Buddha. The other way is ride a cruise and watch it in a distance, which provides better views.

11:00 - 12:00 p.m: Enjoy lunch at a local restaurant nearby Giant Buddha (pay on spot).

13:30 - 15:30 p.m: Visit the **Huanglongxi Ancient Town**. Named after Huanglong River that runs through, Huanglongxi Ancient Town has a history of 1,700 years. Most of its buildings date back to Qing Dynasty, featured with cobbled streets, wooden buildings, tranquil tea houses, tall old trees and temples. Coming here will make anybody calm and peaceful. It's precisely these facts attracts many producers come here and shoot movies.

16:30 p.m: Drop you off at Jinli Street where you are free to explore Chengdu cuisine.

What's Important:

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What's included:

- Air-conditioned vehicles with experienced driver.
- Licensed Chinese- English bilingual speaking tour guide.
- Entrance fee for sites mentioned, including the cruise in Giant Buddha.
- Bottled water.
- Second class train tickets between Beijing and Chengdu.
- Lunch in Dujiangyan Panda Base.

What's not included:

- Meals except the one listed in inclusion section.
- Personal expenses or private entertainment items in sites.
- Tips or gratuities for guide and driver if we did a good job(recommended)
- Accommodations.

What to take: smile and a relaxing heart.

Good to know:

1. You are recommended to take cruise in Giant Buddha, which can reward you with better views.
2. If you are interested in panda holding, or panda keeping program, please advise in advance so we can arrange for you.
3. As our customer, your time is very valuable to us. We will never take you to any factories or the shops for shopping.
4. For lunch, we will take you to a nice local restaurant, where you can enjoy the local food with a fair price. Please inform us about your food preferences in case you have any allergies.
5. A regular day tour will last 8-9 hours. If you want a tour with a duration exceeding the working period of our tour guide and driver, we need to charge you for your extra hours with the standard of 100 RMB per hour.
6. The tour we provide you are based on days, not the hours. A regular day tour will last 8-9 hours.

In case you only need our service for over 6 hours yet less than 8 hours in one day, we will consider

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it a day tour.

7. Please be aware that your itinerary is changeable anytime. Whenever you want to adjust it, we will help you with that.

8. What we provide are high-quality private tours, you will be only with your families or friends. There are no other people joining your tour.

9. Wheelchairs are accessible, please advise prior to your trip in case you need any.

FAQ

1. Can you arrange cooking class for us?

Re: Yes, we can arrange for you. Just let us know where do you want to have this class. We would recommend Chengdu.

2. What kind of car will I have?

Re: It depends on your group size. For group size of 1-2 people, you will be offered with a sedan car. For group size of 3-4 people, you will enjoy a van with 7-seat. While 14-17-seat van will be in service if there are 5-8 of you. When your tour group size is larger, 33-seat coach or bigger will be offered.

3. Can you help me booking the train tickets?

Re: Sure, we can help you to book all the train tickets or flight tickets. This is one of our service features. After booking the tickets, your paper train tickets would be expressed to your Beijing hotel before you can use.

4. How can I book internal train tickets online?

Re: There are several ways to book train tickets or flight tickets on your own. The traditional way would be get to the train station or airport to buy tickets on spot.

If you book online, the official booking system 12306.com is unavailable for foreigners right now.

You can try Ctrip.com. This website can help you book train tickets and air tickets.

5. Can I confirm this is a private tour?

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Re: Yes, this is a private tour just for your group. No other people will join you.

6. Can the tour guide accompany us to have dinner and help us order?

Re: The working time for the tour guide and driver are 8-9 hours. If you finished your tour rather early, our tour guide can certainly help you until you get to dinner. Otherwise, you will need to pay extra for their overtime work.

7. Can we take flights from Beijing to Chengdu, train seems too long for us?

Re: Sure, we can arrange you to take flight. In this way, you will have a little time for your own.

8. Is there anything we should be aware of regarding the panda keeper program?

Re: Panda keeping program is a serious job. They are strict process when it comes to application.

Once you are approved to join, please be aware of the following notes:

- I. Please do not wear slippers;
- II. Please do not wear perfumes, or use some other stimulating things such as manicure;
- III. You are offered with uniforms and gloves by the panda base, there is no need to bring on your own;
- IV. Please read the safety agreement very carefully before you get to work. Strictly follow the lead of the base staff;
- V. Do not touch pandas under any circumstances. They are carnivorous;
- VI. Bring your own food in case you are not accustomed with the Chinese lunch offered them;
- VII. Report to the instructor immediately if you aren't feeling well;
- VIII. Do not lark and take pictures during work.
- IX. The private transfer service starts from a hotel within city center.
- X. The program may change due to some reasons like the health conditions of pandas, weather, etc.. Thank you for understanding.
- XI. The itinerary can be flexible based on your schedule, but half day tour would still be priced as

one whole day;

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XII. Please prepare physical examination beforehand;

XIII. Age limitation: 12-65 years old. In case you are bringing children under 12, please keep your children out of the panda cage;

9. How do I tip my guide?

Re: You may know that we don't tip people in China. Indeed, tipping is not a compulsory thing here, but our tour guide and driver would expect you do. They would see it as a sign of their hard work and good job. There is no specific amount how much you need to tip. It depends on you. In usually cases, our guide deserves 200 RMB as a tip, while the driver deserves 100 RMB.

10. What do I do if I have some free time, but unwilling stay at hotel?

Re: If you want to explore on your own, please prepare yourselves with a map, your hotel's card and your tour guide's phone number. Just ask your guide whenever you got a problem.

11. Does our tour guides accompany us in each site?

Re: Of course, your tour guides will escort you to all the sites arranged. They will enter the sites and introduce to you all the stories and facts.

Cancellation policy:

No less than 2 weeks, you will lose your deposit;

Within 7 days - 13 days, loss of 50% of your payment or just the deposit.

Within 6 days, loss of full payment or just the deposit.

Please bear in mind that your deposit is still available for your next trip with us. You may also offer this deposit to someone else as their tour deposit with us.